



BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON

Annual Reports

of the

Medical Officer of Health,
Divisional County Medical Officer and
Divisional School Medical Officer,
for the year 1952

By D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. (EDIN.), R.F.P.S. (EDIN. AND GLAS.)

*Health Department,
Plymyard,
Eastham, Cheshire.*



BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON

Annual Reports

of the

Medical Officer of Health,
Divisional County Medical Officer and
Divisional School Medical Officer,
for the year 1952

By D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. (EDIN.), R.F.P.S. (EDIN. AND GLAS.)

*Health Department,
Plymyard,
Eastham, Cheshire.*

The Health and Lighting Committee
of
The Bebington Borough Council.

Chairman : ALDERMAN R. WILLIAMS.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR DR. J. N. MACDONALD.

The Mayor: COUNCILLOR A. J. GITTINS.

The ex-Mayor: ALDERMAN W. H. ROBERTS.

ALDERMAN H. P. LONG.

ALDERMAN H. SMITH.

ALDERMAN R. SNAPE.

COUNCILLOR R. EVANS.

COUNCILLOR MRS. B. GILL.

COUNCILLOR MRS. S. PRICE.

COUNCILLOR J. TRENCH.

COUNCILLOR W. WEDGEWOOD.

Annual Report, 1952

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Corporation of Bebington.

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

By the mutual decision of the Bebington Council and the Cheshire County Council I once again have the opportunity in my Annual Report of presenting a complete record of the work of my Department both for the Borough and for the Bebington Health Division of the County. It will be seen that the Report for the Borough Council deals with general statistics relating to birth, death, infectious diseases and environmental sanitation, and that my Report for the County deals with the Welfare side covering the Maternity and Child Welfare services and the Home Nursing, Immunisation, Domestic Help, After-Care and Ambulance services.

Population, Birth and Death Rates.

The population at mid-year 1952 showed a slight increase on that for 1951, namely 47,790 as compared with 47,300. The general birth rate of the Borough is approximately the same as for 1951, namely 14.0 per 1,000 population as compared with 15.6 for England and Wales. The death rate of the Borough for 1952 stands at 11.0 per 1,000 population, and is thus .6 lower than for 1951, and .3 lower than for England and Wales.

Infantile Mortality (under one year).

The figure of 26.2 per 1,000 births continues to be a very good one and is still lower than the rate for England and Wales. Deaths from premature birth are still high, namely, 8, and it is particularly worth noting that these premature births occurred where the mothers did not attend or receive any advice at our ante-natal clinic.

Causes of Death.

It is noted that diseases of the heart and circulatory system still show the highest figures as causes of death in this area, but otherwise the figures provide no cause for comment except perhaps it is worthy of note that there were no suicides in Bebington during the year, whereas in 1951 seven suicides were registered.

Infectious Diseases.

The total of notifications of infectious diseases this year is considerably higher than for 1951, when as I pointed out in my Report for that year, 1951 was not the biennial year for measles. The 1952 notifications of measles increased by 500, and for 1953 the Council may expect a corresponding decrease.

Water Supply.

Regarding the water supply of the Borough of Bebington, upon which I have been instructed to report by the Ministry of Health, I have collaborated with A. L. Lyon, Esq., M.Eng., M.I.C.E., Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board, and we are in mutual agreement with the following report :

The water is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board from three sources, i.e., Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth, and is obtained by pumping from deep wells, bores and adits by means of steam and electrically-driven machinery.

During 1952 work proceeded on the reconstruction of the Hooton Pumping Station, and water from the deepened No. 5 bore-hole was taken into supply during the year.

Work also continued on the scheme to abstract water from the River Dee, as authorised by the West Cheshire Water Order, 1950, and a quantity of untreated water for industrial use has been supplied since May, 1952.

During 1952 an Inquiry was held at Chester into the Board's application to abstract additional water from the Dee, which resulted in the West Cheshire Water Order, 1952. By this Order the Board may abstract up to a total of 16.8 million gallons per day, 10 million gallons of which can be taken immediately and the balance on the completion of the Bala lake scheme to be carried out by the Dee and Clwyd River Board.

The water from the three pumping stations at Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth is hard, and due to the present supply position the Board have not been able to soften the water at each of the stations as they did pre-war. Partial softening is in operation at Mouldsworth, and the Board hope to resume full softening operations when additional quantities of treated River Dee water are available. The water at each source is sterilised by chloramination at Prenton and Mouldsworth and simply chlorination at Hooton.

The pH reaction from our source of supply continues to remain within the limits on an average of 7 to 7.5 and is non-plumbo solvent. The samples from the various sources are bright in appearance, most frequently neutral in reaction, and free from iron and

other metals, with the exception of the supply from Mouldsworth Pumping Station which shows a negligible trace of iron. All three sources produce a **pure and** wholesome water suitable for the public supply purposes.

Twenty-four witnessed and certified analyses were submitted by the West Cheshire Water Board to my department during the year 1952.

During the year 1952 no independent analyses of water have been made by this Council of samples provided by the West Cheshire Water Board.

Care of the Aged.

I should like to be able to report that matters were further forward in establishing a Home for the aged in this area. As the **Council are well aware**, the **urgent need** is for a Home where some medical or nursing care is given as apart from the Hospitals on the one hand and the County Homes on the other hand, which cater for the aged who can care for themselves. When the national economy permits, it is hoped that such mid-way Homes will be established, or perhaps, better still, that suitably staffed annexes to present establishments will be added for those who are partially disabled, and who would thus have opportunities for social contact with more fortunate persons of their own age.

Television.

I have been frequently asked for an opinion on the effect of television viewing on children's eyes, and I would repeat my remarks as shown in my County Report on page 33 that no particular information has yet come to hand. I would, however, like to say and to emphasise that I have heard from a number of teachers and others that a large number of children are not getting sufficient sleep on account of television and the misinterpreted kindness of parents in allowing their young children to stay up until late hours watching television. A number of teachers also tell me that television is having an adverse effect on the preparation of the children's home lessons.

I feel it should be sincerely recommended that in the health interests of the children, and except say on Friday or on Saturday night, television should be avoided for children between the ages of 5 and 11 years after 6 o'clock, and for children between the ages of 11 and 15 years after 8 o'clock. Proper and comfortable sleep

for children under the age of 15 years is in the same light of benefit to their general development as is plentiful and well prepared food.

Medical Examinations of Corporation Staff.

During 1952 the Medical Officer of Health made 108 medical examinations and reports in respect of the staff of the Bebington Corporation.

In acknowledging my thanks to my staff for their continued help and loyalty I should like particularly to express my thanks and appreciation of my Chief Clerk's work over a period of eight years in my department. I call particular attention this year to Miss Glidewell's services as I regret to say that she will not be in my department for the preparation of my next Annual Report, as she retires from the service of the County Council and the Bebington Corporation in March 1954. Miss Glidewell came to the Bebington Corporation in the early days of the war, and before coming to my department occupied a position which from the beginning was concerned with the work of the Health Department, giving her a full appreciation of the Council's outlook on Public Health generally.

In conclusion, I wish to thank most heartily my Chairman, Alderman R. Williams, for his support and availability at all times throughout the year, and to convey my appreciation to members of the Committee for their continued interest in the department.

I am, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. O. MACDONALD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Plymyard,
Eastham.
August, 1953.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health : D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
 R.C.P.S. (Edin.), R.F.P.S. (Edin. and Glas.).
 Chief Sanitary Inspector : E. V. CRAPPER, F.R.S.I., F.S.I.A.,
 M.I.P.H. and H.
 Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector : A. DAVIDSON.
 Assistant Sanitary Inspectors : T. TOWNSON, E. CAINES, W. FARR,
 J. GOODWIN.
 One Van Driver/Drain Tester/Disinfectors.
 Two Ratcatchers.

Clerical Staff.

Chief Clerk : Miss E. M. GLIDEWELL.
 Four Shorthand Typists. One Telephonist.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	12,244
Estimated Resident Population (mid-1952)	47,790
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1952)	13,759
Rateable Value (end of 1952)	£388,762
Product of a Penny Rate (estimated)	£1,580

Births and Deaths, 1952.

Number of Registered Live Births :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	333	307	640
Illegitimate	4	7	11
Total	337	314	651

Number of Still Births :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	9	9	18
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Total	9	10	19

Total Number of Births (Live and Still) :—

Male.	Female.	Total.
346	324	670

Total Number of Deaths :—

Male.	Female.	Total.
273	256	529

Deaths from :—

Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	202
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Motor Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Deaths under 1 year :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	8	9	17
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	8	9	17

Birth Rates and Death Rates, 1952.**Births per 1,000 civilian population :—**

	Bebington	England and Wales.	160 C.B. & Gt. Towns (inc. London).	160 Smaller Towns (Pop. 25-50,000)
Stillbirths	0.3	0.35	0.43	0.36
Live Births	13.7	15.3	16.9	15.5

Deaths per 1,000 civilian population :—

All Causes	11.0	11.3	12.1	11.2
Pneumonia	0.29	0.47	0.52	0.43
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Influenza	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04
Tuberculosis	0.30	0.24	0.28	0.22

	Bebington	England and Wales.	160 C.B. & Gt. Towns (inc. London).	160 Smaller Towns (Pop. 25-50,000
Deaths per 1,000 live births:—				
Under 1 year ...	26.2	27.6	31.2	25.8
From Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	0.00	1.1	1.3	0.5

Deaths per 1,000 total births:—
Maternal Mortality:—

	Bebington.	England and Wales.
Sepsis of Pregnancy ...	0.00	0.09
Abortion with toxæmia ...	0.00	0.02
Other toxæmias of pregnancy ...	0.00	0.21
Haemorrhage of Pregnancy ...	0.00	0.09
Abortion without sepsis or tox- æmia ...	0.00	0.04
Abortion with sepsis ...	0.00	0.07
Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0.00	0.20
	<hr/> 0.00 <hr/>	<hr/> 0.72 <hr/>

The rate of 0.72 maternal mortality in England and Wales represents 138 deaths.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year (Bebington).

All infants per 1,000 Total Live Births ...	26.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Total Live Births ...	26.6

Comparative Rates.

Per 1,000 Population:—

	Bebington 1951.	Bebington 1952.	England and Wales, 1952.
Birth Rate—Live Births ...	13.7	13.7	15.3
Death Rate ...	11.6	11.0	11.3
Per 1,000 Births:—			
Infant Mortality Rate ...	26.3	26.2	27.6
Maternal Mortality Rate ...	1.52	0.00	0.72

Table of Bebington Infantile Mortality.

Rate per 1,000 births
(under 1 year).

1937	...	...	...	49.0	1945	...	...	...	49.0
1938	...	...	...	40.0	1946	...	...	...	51.0
1939	...	...	...	43.5	1947	...	...	...	51.3
1940	...	...	...	67.2	1948	...	...	...	45.5
1941	...	...	...	62.6	1949	...	...	...	33.9
1942	...	...	...	28.0	1950	...	...	...	26.2
1943	...	...	...	62.8	1951	...	...	...	26.3
1944	...	...	...	42.0	1952	...	...	...	26.2

England and Wales : 1952 ... 27.6

The total number of deaths of infants under one year during the twelve months of 1952 was 17. Of these, 15 were neo-natal deaths, which were distributed as follows:—

Neo-Natal Deaths (Under 1 month).

Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Spina Bifida	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Pneumonia (Broncho or Lobar)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Intracranial haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							—
							15
							—

The other two cases were caused as follows:—

Pneumonia (Broncho or Lobar)	...	...	...	2
				—

(Three of the deaths from “ prematurity ” shown above were associated either with partial atelectasis, or kidney disease, or peritonitis).

Causes of Death.

Based on Registrar-General's Short List of Causes of Death.

All Causes.						M.	F.	Total
1.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	8	3	11
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
3.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	7	3	10
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	9	2	11
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	9	9
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	6	6
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	22	26	48
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	28	44	72
18.	Coronary Disease, angina	...	...	...	...	66	37	103
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	11	16	27
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	24	48	72
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	13	4	17
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5	9	14
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	20	8	28
25.	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
26.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	10	1	11
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	4	4
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	7	3	10
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	17	23	40
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
34.	All other Accidents	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTAL						273	256	529

(It will be seen from the above list that “ prematurity ” is no longer designated as a cause of death, but general practitioners continue to specify it as such).

Tuberculosis.

(a) New Cases and Mortality notified during 1952.

Age Periods				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
						M.	F.			M.	F.
Years				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	8	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	7	9	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
25	...	...	6	7	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
35	...	...	2	3	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
45	...	...	7	—	1	1	3	—	1	—	—
55	...	...	3	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards			3	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Total	...		36	20	5	6	8	3	3	1	
				56		11		11		4	
				67				15			

(b) Sanatorium Treatment during 1952.

Sanatorium.	Admissions.				Discharges.				Remaining.
Aintree Hospital	1	...	2	...	1	
Market Drayton	23	...	14	...	16	
Clatterbridge General Hospital.	1	...	1	...	1	
Cleaver Hospital	7	...	6	...	4	
Leasowe Hospital	1	...	1	...	1	
Frodsam	—	...	2	...	—	
Wrenbury Hall	2	...	3	...	1	
Preston Hall Hospital	1	...	—	...	—	
				—		—		—	
				36	...	29	...	24	
				—		—		—	

(c) Total Live Register at June, 1953.

Respiratory Cases	...	...	...	347	(June 1952—333)
Non-Respiratory Cases	...	..	...	66	(June 1952—63)
				413	396

Notifiable Infectious Diseases, 1952.
(a) Total Cases (excluding Tuberculosis).

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	
Encephalitis	2	2	
Scarlet Fever	46	24	
Diphtheria	8	8	All neg.
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	4	
Pneumonia	30	5	
Erysipelas	9	5	
Acute Poliomyelitis	5†	5	2 neg.
Measles	793	11	
Whooping Cough	129x	22	
Meningitis	3	3	
Typhoid	1	1	
Dysentery	7	1	4 neg.
Food Poisoning	19	1	15 neg.
Malaria	1	1	
Ophthalmic Neonatorum ..	2	2	
Total	1059	95	

† Of these 5 cases none was from Bebington.

x Of these 129 cases 6 had been immunised according to records.

(b) Ward Distribution.

Disease	Hr. Bebington	Woodhey	Bebington	New Ferry	Park	Sunlight	N. Bromborough	S. Bromborough	Eastham	Poulton (including Clatterbridge Hospital)	TOTAL
Encephalitis	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever	6	1	4	3	3	1	1	5	4	18	46
Diphtheria	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	4	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	4
Pneumonia	6	6	3	4	—	1	1	4	4	1	30
Erysipelas	1	2	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	2	9
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles	80	48	97	152	38	36	42	98	101	101	793
Whooping Cough	19	11	27	17	—	11	2	6	11	25	129
Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Dysentery	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	7
Food Poisoning	2	2	—	8	3	—	—	3	—	1	19
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Oph. Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Totals	115	75	132	190	45	49	49	120	120	164*	1059

* Of this figure 111 were Borough cases.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Mr. E. V. Crapper, Chief Sanitary Inspector, is responsible for the following reports on the Sanitary Inspection of this area:—

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of and Nature of Inspections made				Total for 1952	Informals	Statutory	Complied with	Outstanding	Legal Proceedings
Dwellinghouses Inspected	...	...	...	739	343	—	—	—	—
Do. Re-inspected	...	...	...	1876	—	93	192	220	3
Offices	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Lodging Houses	...	...	...	33	11	—	8	3	3
Overcrowding	...	...	...	367	1	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds	...	...	...	10	—	—	1	—	—
Courts, Passages	...	...	...	111	36	18	11	26	—
House Drainage	...	...	...	1011	111	27	80	112	—
Dustbins	...	...	...	504	159	13	82	64	—
Cesspools	...	...	...	76	12	1	6	10	—
Ditches, Watercourses	...	...	...	33	2	—	1	2	—
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	58	3	—	—	3	1
Dry Closets	...	...	...	25	10	—	10	—	—
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	14	1	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	148	—	—	—	—	—
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	50	—	—	—	15	—
Grocers' do	...	...	...	164	—	—	—	20	—
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	35	—	—	—	3	—
Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	10	—	—	—	2	—
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	20	—	—	—	3	—
Greengrocers & Fruiterers	...	...	...	25	—	—	—	10	—
Confectioners	...	...	...	39	—	—	—	5	—
Cafes, Canteen, Kitchens	...	...	...	60	—	—	—	11	—
Bakehouses	...	...	...	33	—	—	—	2	—
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	72	1	—	1	2	—
Food Premises Re-inspections	...	...	...	38	—	—	—	—	—
Piggeries	...	...	...	26	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies & Milk Retailers	...	...	...	54	—	—	—	3	—
Cowsheds	...	...	...	11	—	—	—	—	—
Milk Sampling	...	...	...	93	—	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Sampling	...	...	...	104	—	—	—	—	—
Washing-up Water Sampling	...	...	...	29	—	—	—	—	—
Beer Sampling	...	...	...	30	—	—	—	—	—
Factories, Mechanical Power	...	...	...	36	9	—	—	4	—
Do Without Power	...	...	...	34	14	—	1	2	—
Workplaces...	...	...	...	15	10	—	10	—	—
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	13	5	—	5	—	—
Public Schools	...	...	...	14	—	—	—	—	—
Private Schools	...	...	...	6	—	—	—	—	—
Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	10	—	—	—	—	—
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	14	—	—	—	—	—
Licensed Premises...	...	...	...	49	—	—	—	19	—
Infectious Diseases Inquiries and Revisits	...	...	...	255	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning Inquiries and Revisits	...	...	...	321	—	—	—	—	—
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	536	—	—	—	—	—
Appointments outside Office	...	...	...	198	—	—	—	—	—
Shops Acts	...	...	...	734	—	—	—	—	—
Rodent Control	...	...	...	3548	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	10683	728	152	408	541	7

Complaints.

During the year 752 complaints were received in connection with housing defects, nuisances and overcrowding. All complaints were investigated at the earliest possible moment and appropriate action taken to deal with matters where the complaints were confirmed and there was power to effect a remedy.

Housing.

Inspections.

72 houses were inspected under the Housing Act and informal notices served upon the owners. At the end of the year most of the work required to make these premises reasonably fit for human habitation was completed, and the remaining items were in the hands of the contractors.

A recent feature of housing is the sale of old small working-class property with a limited life. Sooner or later such houses will have to be considered with a view to demolition with consequent hardship upon the owner-occupiers.

Unfit Houses.

7 houses were represented as Unfit for Human Habitation; three in Home Farm Yard, two in Trafalgar Place, Wood Cottage, and Farmers Cottage, Eastham.

One building partly in this area and partly in the area of the Wirral U.D.C. represented as Unfit for Human Habitation was the subject of special consideration by both Authorities, and it was agreed to take no action in regard to demolition during the present occupants lifetime.

Overcrowding.

There were 81 cases of overcrowding known to this Department at the end of the year involving 491 persons. This is 12 less than the figure at the end of 1951.

In 69 cases overcrowding was between $\frac{1}{2}$ a unit and $2\frac{1}{2}$ units.

In 12 cases overcrowding was between 3 units and $5\frac{1}{2}$ units.

In 2 cases overcrowding was created not numerically but by the unavoidable mixing of sexes.

Increase of Rents Acts.

Two applications were received under these Acts and certificates issued to the tenants.

Special Visits.

Dual visits were made with the Medical Officer of Health where problem families and elderly people in need of care and attention were being dealt with. Co-operation with the N.S.P.C.C. Inspector in regard to child neglect due to insanitary conditions resulted in improvement in those cases under observation.

One elderly man was removed under Section 47 National Assistance Act 1948. He later died in hospital.

Proceedings were taken against one elderly man for allowing his house to become filthy. This man was physically fit and able to keep his house clean. A Court Order was obtained, a fine imposed, and the Order was complied with.

Special attention during Housing inspections is directed towards defects likely to lead to house accidents and particularly where aged people live, the sanitary inspectors report inadequate lighting, absence of handrails to stairs, uneven floors and yards, etc.

Verminous Premises.

During the year 270 rooms were treated for vermin, 32 beds were disinfected, 59 other articles were disinfested.

The bed-bug population is dwindling due, I believe, to the persistent efforts made by this Department over the last years, and to the better standard of cleanliness in the district. There was a time when lecturers on Pestology could apply to us for specimens of live bugs, and they could be found forthwith. This position no longer exists.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Lodging Houses.

These are visited as often as possible. One owner was prosecuted for failing to provide sufficient sanitary accommodation and sufficient facilities for washing and was fined £2 with a daily penalty which amounted to £46.

Pet Animal Act.

Three premises were licensed for the sale of pet animals. These are regularly inspected.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act 1951.

One premises are registered under this Act and inspected at regular intervals.

General Sanitation.

Dustbins.

The Scheme adopted by the Council during the year for the supply of dustbins in those cases where they are not supplied either by the owner or the tenant, is working well and saving much time. At the end of the year 43 bins had been supplied by the Corporation, 20 by owners and 10 by the occupants.

Courts, Passages.

These are regularly visited and defects found are notified to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor if adopted, or dealt with by notices if privately owned.

Public Conveniences.

These are regularly visited and defects, if found, referred to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

Sanitary Conveniences.

There are still five privies, 50 pail closets, 36 earth closets, and 9 chemical closets in use in the district. (These figures exclude united camps).

1 Cesspool was abolished during the year and the drainage connected to the sewer.

1 Filter Chamber was abolished during the year, and the drainage connected to the sewer.

1 Elsan Closet was connected with a water closet.

House Drainage.

346 Smoke tests were applied to drains following the service of sanitary notices.

155 house drains were plunged.

87 house drains were rodded.

Cesspools.

There are 260 houses drained to cesspools and septic tanks, and these installations are regularly visited.

Public and Private Schools.

These are visited at regular intervals.

Smoke Abatement.

An increasing amount of time is spent in visits to factories and other premises where pollution of the air is caused. Advice is given to stokers where necessary.

Tips.

Constant attention is given to the tipping of household and other refuse and every effort made to ensure that controlled tipping is practised.

There are in the District:—

95	Grocers and General Stores
31	Dairies and Milk Retailers
39	Butchers
18	Bakehouses
37	Confectioners
42	Greengrocers and Fruiterers
24	Wet Fish Retailers
17	Fried Fish Retailers
115	Ice Cream Retailers
48	Licensed Premises (including Clubs)
104	Cafes, Kitchens and Canteens (including Mobile Canteens)
70	Miscellaneous Food Premises (Sweets, Off-licences, etc.)
providing a total of 640 Food Premises.	

Mr. E. Caines, who is employed whole time on food premises, finds it a difficult task to inspect thoroughly the whole of these premises at least once per year, and during the last two years it has not been possible owing to the large amount of time spent on food poisoning enquiries and revisits.

The emphasis during the year has been on personal cleanliness and joint visits have been paid by Mr. Caines and myself where necessary. Hands of those working in food factories are particularly liable to receive scratches, and unless the hands are kept scrupulously clean at **all times** the risk of infection of the hands, and in due course, the food, is an ever present danger. In bakehouses much handling of food is necessary, and it is imperative to ensure clean hands, an ample supply of soap, clean hot water and clean towels, and there is an obligation not only on the employees to see that their hands are always clean, but upon the management to see that this essential preventive of food poisoning exists.

On the whole the standard of personal hygiene in food premises is very high in Bebington, but the Health Committee have been concerned where unsatisfactory conditions have been reported, and they intend to protect the public by every means in their power.

Many structural improvements were carried out during the year, all of them making it easier for those engaged in the production or handling of food.

Licensed Premises.

There are 48 licensed premises on the Department's Register. 49 visits were made, and it was found that an improvement in glass washing had been made, and Brewery Companies are realising more than ever the need for some better control over this problem during busy periods. Is it too much to expect the employment of a whole-time glass washer where mechanical aid is not provided? Public house staffs cannot serve customers and clean glasses at the same time, and as Service is usually the first consideration, it follows that the proper cleansing of glasses is not carried out when business is brisk.

There are still two or three public houses requiring drastic alterations to bring them up to the general standard, and when the problem of building materials is easier we hope to see such premises rebuilt or reconstructed.

Beer Sampling.

Beer Sampling continues and during 1952, out of 60 samples, 28 samples of Bitter Beer passed the tests for cleanliness, but of 32 samples of Mild Beer, 2 contained Non Faecal B Coli and 1 contained Faecal B Coli.

Milk Retail.

The purity and cleanliness of the milk supply is zealously watched as a reference to the Tables on Sampling will show. Complaints in regard to dirty bottles are now few, but when they are received, detailed investigation as to the cause is made.

Milk Samples.

The following table shows the result of milk sampling so far as the presence of T.B. is concerned over the past 21 years:—

	No.	T. B.	% T. B.
Raw ungraded	1245	64	5.14%
Accredited	1630	109	6.67%
T.T.	97	—	—
T.T. (Farm Bottled)	94	—	—
Pasteurised	41	—	—

Pasteurised milk is not now sampled for the presence of T.B., but milk sold as pasteurised is continually checked to satisfy the tests for efficient pasteurisation, and these tests, known as phosphatase tests, gave the following results together with the bacteriological results:—

	No. Taken.		Bacteriological Passed.	Failed.		Phosphatase Passed.	Failed.
Milk Retailers ...	49	...	49	—	...	49	—
Schools ...	35	...	33	2	...	34	—
Hospitals ...	4	...	4	—	...	4	—

Ice Cream.

Samples of Ice Cream were taken during the year with the following results:—

80 Grade I. Satisfactory.
2 Grade IV. Unsatisfactory.

In addition to the above 4 samples contained Faecal B Coli and 11 Non-Faecal B Coli. All these unsatisfactory and contaminated samples were investigated and repeat samples taken.

Washing-up Water.

The following table relates to samples of washing-up water, etc., taken during the year:—

Type of Sample.	Number Taken	Failed Faecal B. Coli	Failed Non- Faecal	Failed Staph Aureus	Failed Plate Count
Tap Water ...	13	—	—	—	—
Sink Water before use...	12	1	—	—	3
Sink Water after use...	15	5	1	—	6

Swimming Baths.

8 samples of water were taken, 4 each from the New Ferry and the Port Sunlight Swimming Baths in the season. Faecal B Coli were isolated in 1 sample from each Bath.

Inspections of dressing rooms and sanitary accommodation were made during the Swimming Season.

Pathogenesis.

12 soil samples were taken in various parts of the Borough in relation to a limited cancer investigation now proceeding.

Food Poisoning Enquiries and Sampling.

CONFIRMED CASES.

	Under 5.		5—15 yrs.		Over 15 yrs.		Totals.	
	Notfd.	Not Notfd.	Notfd.	Not Notfd.	Notfd.	Not Notfd.	Notfd.	Not Notfd.
1st Quarter	NIL							
2nd Quarter								
Salmon Minntsota	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	3
B.Dysentery Sonne	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Salmonella enteritidis jena	—	—	—	2	3	—	3	2
3rd Quarter	NIL							
4th Quarter								
B.Dysentery Sonne	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	1	—	2	5	4	5	7
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

CASES INVESTIGATED.

	Under 5.		5—15 yrs.		Over 15 yrs.		Totals.	
	Notfd.	Not Notfd.	Notfd.	Not Notfd.	Notfd.	Not Notfd.	Notfd.	Not Notfd.
1st Quarter	6	3	—	3	5	8	11	14
2nd Quarter	2	1	1	2	10	7	13	10
3rd Quarter	1	—	—	—	10	1	11	1
4th Quarter	—	1	1	2	5	1	6	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	9	5	2	7	30	17	41	29
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SAMPLES TAKEN.

	B. Dysentery Sonne		Salmonella Minnesota	Salmonella enteritidis jena
153 Faeces	...	2	9	22
34 Urine	...	—	1	—
15 Suspected Food	...	—	—	—
6 Sewer Swabs	...	—	—	—

Food Poisoning Outbreak June 1952.

Several cases of suspected food poisoning were reported between 12th and 19th June by various practitioners in all parts of the Borough, and it was found that the majority of patients commenced with symptoms on the 11th/12th June.

After detailed investigations it was found that all the patients had consumed meat pies on the 1st June either at home or at work, and further enquiries revealed that the Butchers and Canteens concerned obtained their meat pies from the same manufacturer, a factory near Warrington.

Bacteriological examination of faeces from the patients proved the causative organisms to be *Salmonella enteritidis jena* in every instance.

Close co-operation was maintained with the Sanitary Inspector responsible for the area in which the factory was situated, and specimens of faeces were obtained from the employees concerned. Unfortunately no pathogenic organisms were isolated from these specimens, but *Salmonella enteritidis* jena organisms were isolated from sewer swabs laid in the drainage system from the factory. This was considered to be conclusive proof that the pies were the vehicle of infection.

Meat Inspection.

The following statistics refer to animals killed at the slaughter-house which serves the districts of Bebington, Hoylake, Ellesmere Port, Neston and Wirral.

A—whole carcasses condemned.

B—carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.

C—percentage of number affected with (a) T.B.; (b) diseases other than T.B.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Number killed	2215	1372	1155	17671	1423	23836
Ante-mortem inspection including supervision of humane slaughter	2215	1372	1155	17671	1423	23836
Notice of slaughter received	2215	1372	1155	17671	1423	23836
Casualties	7	10	11	3	33	64
Post-mortem inspection ...	2215	1372	1155	17671	1423	23836

Tuberculosis.

A	3	24	2	—	3	32
B	223	465	2	—	79	769
C(a)	10.2 %	30.56 %	.34 %	—	5.05 %	3.3 %

All Diseases except T.B.

A	—	—	24	22	6	52
B	530	526	2	827	47	1932
C(b)	23.9 %	30.8 %	2.2 %	4.8 %	3.7 %	8.3 %

Although less than the previous year, the high incidence of T.B. is an indication of the need for more stringent methods in the elimination of this disease from dairy cattle, and the improvement in the housing of dairy cattle.

Meat transport in this area is carried out in a hygienic manner, and no instance of contamination was noted during the year. The vehicles provided are up-to-date and the personnel instructed in food hygiene..

Condemned Food.

The following food has been found unfit for human consumption by sanitary inspectors either in their routine visits or following requests from retailers :—

71 tins Meat.	72 packets Cheese
557 tins Fruit and	1 Sausage Roll
Vegetables.	1½ lbs. Tea.
81 tins Fish	2 bottle Sauce.
4 stones Fish	24 tins Soup
102 tins Milk	10 tins Fruit Juice
70 tins Rabbit	76 lbs. Potato Powder
23 jars Preserves	2 packets Cereals
1 loaf of Bread	263 tins Strained Baby Food
2 Boiling Fowl	1 Xmas Pudding
2 tins Spaghetti	1 bottle Peppermint

As usual a special visit was paid to food premises in the week prior to Xmas during which a large quantity of poultry and other Xmas food was inspected.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

255 enquiries were made in regard to infectious disease notifications, an increase over the previous year because so many of the cases notified were nursed at home necessitating revisits to ensure a maintenance of proper isolation.

The following figures relate to steam disinfection and disinfection of rooms, etc. :—

114 rooms disinfected
106 beds disinfected
697 other articles disinfected
76 library books disinfected.

Mortuary.

The Council's two mortuaries are cleaned by workmen of the Health Department. They are always maintained in a condition fit for immediate use, either for the reception of bodies or holding post-mortem examinations.

22 bodies were received into the Mortuary last year.

No complaints were received from the doctors using the New Ferry Mortuary or from the police. The Mortuary at Eastham was not used during the year.

SHOPS ACT 1950.

YOUNG PERSONS EMPLOYMENT ACT, 1938.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector, who is Chief Inspector under the Shops Act, reports as follows :—

The administration of the Shops Acts is divided under these headings :—

Responsibility of local authority as Shops Act Authority—

Hours of employment of young persons.

Facilities for meals and provision of seats for females.

Hours of closing, weekly half-day.

Sunday trading, etc.

Provision of washing facilities and light.

Responsibility of local authority as Local Sanitary Authority—

Provision of sanitary accommodation, ventilation, and temperature.

So far as Bebington is concerned, all administration is the responsibility of the Council as Shops Act Authority and local Sanitary Authority.

During the year the following notices were served :—

Failure to maintain sufficient ventilation	2
„ „ maintain sufficient temperature	25
„ „ provide and maintain washing facilities ...	7
„ „ provide and maintain sanitary conveniences	6
„ „ provide and maintain adequate lighting...	28

Warnings were given in regard to the following offences :—

Assistants half holiday notice not exhibited	34
Notices re seats not provided	28
Seats not provided for female assistants	8
Mixed Business notices not provided	16
Shops Open for serving of customers after hours ...	4
Shops Open on Sunday for non-exempted goods ...	5
Hours of Employment not recorded	2
Correct Intervals for meals not allowed	1
Record of Sunday Employment not entered	4
Failure to exhibit notices re Sunday Sales	22

RODENT CONTROL.

Upon becoming aware of rodent infestation either by routine visits or complaint, informal notices are served upon occupiers informing them that they are under an obligation to rid their premises of rats or mice, but offering the service of our Rodent Operators under a signed agreement.

A new poison named " Warfarin " was used during the year. This is an anti-coagulant related to the common drug dicumarol, and it causes the blood to thin with resultant internal haemorrhage and death. The results obtained have been satisfactory, particularly in the case of mice which are always more difficult to deal with. No bait prejudice is created by the consumption of " Warfarin," and vermin continue to eat until death takes place.

The following statistics indicate the work carried out :—

	Reservoir.	Major Primary.	Minor. Primary.	Supervisory Visits by S.I.'s.
Inspections.				
By Sanitary Inspectors ...	—	8	312	—
By Rat Catchers ...	—	3	232	—
Revisits.				
By Sanitary Inspectors ...	—	31	277	—
By Rat Catchers ...	—	29	3549	—
Supervisory visits by Sanitary Inspectors ...	—	—	—	30
	—	—	—	—
	—	71	4370	30
	—	—	—	—
			Rats	Mice
No. of complaints	89	22
No. of complaints investigated...	89	22
No. of properties inspected	201	52
No. of infestations (1) notified by occupier	49	17
(2) otherwise discovered	87	29
No. of infestations treated	214	89

Type of visit made:—

Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2031
L.A. Property	(1)	Tips and non-agricultural land	...	...	...	...	...	...	157
	(2)	Sewage works	...	...	...	...	...	...	153
	(3)	Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
	(4)	Other buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Business Premises	(1)	Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
	(2)	Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	561
	(3)	Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
	(4)	Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
	(5)	Cafes and Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
	(6)	Non-agricultural land	...	...	...	...	...	...	244
Agricultural Property	(1)	Market Gardens and Farms...	...	...	...	...	...	...	165
	(2)	Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	127
	(3)	Agricultural land	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Other Authority Property	(1)	Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	364
	(2)	Hospitals and Clinics	...	...	...	...	...	...	156

4471

No. of estimates provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
No. of contracts signed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Estimated No. of rats found during 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4706
Estimated No. of rats killed during 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3859
73 Contracts for £137 2s. od.									

Sewer Treatment.

Sewer treatment has been carried out in accordance with Ministry of Agriculture requirements.

Area.				No. of Manholes		Takes			Washed
				Test baited		N.T.	P.T.	C.T.	Away
Eastham	...	...	28	...	25	—	—	...	3
Bromborough 1	...	...	33	...	23	—	—	...	10
Bromborough 2	...	...	23	...	23	—	—	...	—
Bromborough Pool	.	...	18	...	18	—	—	...	—
Port Sunlight	...	...	25	...	23	—	—	...	2
New Ferry	...	...	29	...	26	—	—	...	3
Lower Bebington	...	...	30	...	30	—	—	...	—
Brackenwood	...	...	13	...	13	—	—	...	—
Woodhey	...	...	30	...	30	—	—	...	—
Raby and Thornton Hough	.	...	15	...	15	—	—	...	—
			—		—	—	—		—
Total	...	...	244		226	—	—		18

Total cost	...	...	...	...	...	£51 15 9
Cost per manhole	...	...	...	...	...	£0 4 2
Number of manholes testbaited...	...	...	...	...	...	244
Number of manholes showing "takes"	...	...	...	...	...	—

It should be pointed out that the rat population of the district is slowly decreasing. There were nearly 2,000 less rats discovered during 1952 as compared with 1951. This is an indication of the efficiency of the work carried out since Rodent Control became a permanent feature of Public Health administration.

The Chairman of the Health and Lighting Committee, Mrs. Councillor Gill and your Chief Sanitary Inspector represent the Council on the Birkenhead and District Workable Area Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Dept.), and your Chief Sanitary Inspector is a member of the Regional Consultative Committee.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

During 1952 the following summonses were heard at the Bromborough Police Court :—

4 against a property owner for failure to carry out necessary repairs to abate nuisances.

Fined 10s. in each instance, the work having been carried out at the date of the hearing.

1 against a property owner for failing to carry out necessary repairs to abate nuisances.

Order made for work to be carried out within 28 days. In this case the Council carried out the work in default and recovered by collection of rent.

1 against an owner of a Lodging House for failing to provide sanitary conveniences and washing facilities to each family.

Fined £2 and at a subsequent hearing fined £46.

1 against an owner-occupier for allowing his house to be kept in a filthy condition.

Fined £1 and ordered to abate the nuisance.

One application for a Warrant to enter was applied for and obtained. This empty house and shop was found to be rodent infested, and there was a large accumulation of refuse which, after notice, was removed by the local authority.



CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Bebington Health Division.

Annual Report for 1952

of the

Bebington Divisional Medical Officer of Health

(D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

*"Plymyard,"
Eastham,
Wirral,
Cheshire.*

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

BEBINGTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Representing the Bebington Municipal Borough.

R. Williams, Esq., Chairman.
 Mrs. E. B. Williams, Deputy Chairman.
 R. H. Gill, Esq.
 B. R. Jones, Esq.
 H. P. Long, Esq.
 Dr. J. N. Macdonald.
 F. McNeill, Esq., M.A.
 Mrs. E. Morgān.
 M. Pollitt, Esq.
 H. Smith, Esq.
 R. Snāpe, Esq., M.C.
 W. Wedgewood, Esq.

Representing the Cheshire County Council.

E. Sārson, Esq., J.P.
 Miss B. E. Wilson, J.P.
Ex-officio Members.
 G. A. Aġtbūry, Esq.
 A. Whitley, Esq.

Representative Members and Nominating Bodies.

J. H. Williams, Esq. (Divisonal Education Executive).
 Miss A. L. Bulley
 (Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee).
 Miss J. E. Armstrong
 (Bebington and New Ferry District Nursing Association).
 Mrs. A. M. Fitzpatrick
 (Higher Bebington District Nursing Association).
 Mrs. E. M. Sharp
 (Bromborough and Eastham District Nursing Association).
 A. J. Rushton, Esq. (Nursery School Society).
 Dr. B. Carruthers
 (Local Medicaal Committee for County Palatine of Chester).
 A. F. Dŕake, Esq., B.D.S.
 (National Health Seŕvice Local Dental Committee).

BEBINGTON HEALTH DIVISION STAFF.

Divisional Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer :
Douglas Ovenstone Macdonald, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Clerk to the Bebington Divisional Health Committee :
Gerald Châppell, O.B.E., LL.B.

Assistant County Medical Officers :
Welfare Clinics, School Clinics and Day Nurseries :
Jessie Miller Tough, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Alta Stout, M.B., Ch. B.

Consultant Tuberculosis Physician :
David Weston Tough, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Clerical.

Chief Clerk : Miss E. M. Glidewell ; Two shorthand typists.

Maternity and Child Welfare, T.B. After-Care, etc.

Senior Health Visitor : Mrs. V. R. Blades. Health Visitors : Mrs. Symes, Miss Nicholson. Miss Abraham, Miss Deavall, Miss Wright, Miss Shepherd, Mrs. Bushell (School Nurse). Two clinic clerks. Two permanent Home Helps, eighteen temporary Home Helps.

Day Nurseries.

Matrons : Mrs. F. G. Davies, S.R.N. Mrs. L. Atkinson, S.R.N.
Two deputy Matrons ; Certificated Warden ;
Four Nursery Nurses ; Four Nursery Assistants ; Four Students ;
Two Cooks ; Five Domestics.

Midwives.

Nurse Wright, Nurse Boothroyd, Nurse Uytendahl, Relief Nurse Green.

District Nurses.

Bebington and New Ferry : Miss Cullum.
Higher Bebington : Miss Davies.
Bromborough : Miss Baughan.
Eastham : Mrs. Thompson.

Occupation Centre.

Supervisor : Mrs. F. A. Williams, Two Assistants.

Ambulance Depot.

Ambulance Supervisor : E. Jones ; Senior Driver : J. Bailey.
Nine drivers and nine attendants.

Clinic Specialists.

Gynaecologist : M. M. Datnow, M.D., F.R.C.S.

Orthopaedic Surgeon : H. Williams, M.Ch., F.R.C.S.

Aural Surgeon : G. A. Mouldin, M.B., Ch.B.

Ophthalmic Surgeon : P. J. Devlin, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.

Physiotherapist : Miss Munro, M.C.S.P.

Speech Therapist : Miss K. Jones, L.C.S.T.

Vaccination and Immunisation Clinics.

H. L. Garson, O.B.E., M.C., M.B., Ch.B.

E. L. Hamm, M.B., Ch.B.

L. Henderson, M.B., Ch.B.

J. McPheat, M.B., Ch.B.

Mary Penrice, M.B., Ch.B.

D. Roberts, M.B., Ch.B.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bebington Divisional Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I present this report once again to a full Divisional Committee, which resumed its complete activities in June, 1952. The advantages are many in having a full Committee in that it helps the official concerned to feel the pulse of the population and brings, jointly and severally, information and useful criticisms to me which otherwise I would not receive, and also I find it is more stimulating to the work when the official has the help of a cross-section of so many opinions.

I would like particularly to express my thanks for the continued help and interest of my Chairman, Mr. R. Williams, and of my Vice-Chairman, Mrs. E. B. Williams. The continuance of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Williams is not only a most pleasant interlude in our routine work, but serves the very useful purpose of dealing in detail with administrative domestic matters which need not therefore be brought to the full Committee and take up unnecessary time. The meetings of this Sub-Committee were held in rotation

at different Centres in the Division namely, at the New Ferry and the Bromborough Nurseries and the Welfare Centre, and this in itself, provides the Sub-Committee with a more extended outlook on the work than if it were to meet centrally. I wish to thank the ladies of this Sub-Committee for their continued stimulating interest.

Apart from the general information supplied in the following report, the Committee will be interested to know that the Ambulance Service figures during the year show a 20 per cent. increase in the number of patients, and a 6 per cent. increase in mileage. I should like to assure the Committee that while the above increases may seem alarming, great care is taken to scrutinise every journey from the point of view of its necessity and reasonableness. For the further interest of the Committee I would mention that we continue to receive expressions of thanks by letter and telephone and otherwise verbally communicated for the very human and sympathetic attitude of approach of the Ambulance personnel in their work. The Committee will remember that the services of the mechanic were dispensed with at the beginning of the year, and although we have spent approximately £100 more on outside repairs and servicing than in 1951, this sum was well offset against the mechanic's wages saved. The Supervisor and his Senior Driver continue to cover satisfactorily, with the rest of the personnel, running repairs and road servicing which do not require outside garage overhaul facilities.

Vaccination and Immunisation statistics show considerable increases over those for 1951, but I am not satisfied with the whooping cough immunisation figure, and consider that the total should reach more nearly the number of births during the year, i.e., between 600 and 700. It is hoped to stimulate increased interest in this service during the next twelve months in Bebington, which, it will be remembered, was one of the first Authorities to adopt whooping cough immunisation.

As regards the School Medical Services, the following figures regarding the incidence of "squint" will arouse interest:—

	1951	1952
Squint—referred for treatment	12	34
—under observation	5	13

It will be useful to keep these figures under observation for future years, and the Committee will no doubt be wondering if the facility for television in all types of homes has any bearing on this parti-

cular incidence. I feel this reference is purely conjectural and can only be borne out in the light of future experience.

The additional facilities at " Plymyard " for dental treatment are now making their mark and I gather are very much appreciated by the parents whose children attend.

I should like to express my thanks to my clerical staff, and to my Chief Clerk in particular, for correlating the facts and figures in this Report for my criticism and for presentation to the Committee, and for keeping in continuous association with the various activities of the Department, particularly the Health Visiting staff, whom I also thank for their keenness in the public welfare work in which they are concerned.

Where matters of law and local government procedure enter the picture, and for his general willingness at all times to collaborate, including the preparation of this Report, I must also thank the Clerk to the Committee, Mr. Chappell, and those of his colleagues concerned.

Once again I express my appreciation of the interest and help of my Chairman and members of the Committee.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and
Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. O. MACDONALD

" Plymyard,"

Eastham.

March, 1953.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1952.

For convenience of lay-out I deal with the various duties assigned to the Committee by Sections 22 to 29 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, by separate headings, namely:—

Section 22—Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Section 23—Midwifery Service.

Section 24—Health Visiting Service.

Section 25—Home Nursing Service.

Section 26—Vaccination and Immunisation Service.

Section 27—Ambulance Service.

Section 28—Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care
(T.B., Sick and Aged, Mental).

Section 29—Domestic Help Service.

Section 22—Care of Mothers and Young Children.

The work under this Section of the Act is concerned with the Welfare Clinics, Specialists' Clinics, and the Day Nurseries, their maintenance and equipment, feeding, staffing arrangements and general welfare. Particular care is paid to the requirements of working mothers regarding the disposition of their children in the Nurseries in order that the industrial needs of the respective districts may be served. The average attendance for the year 1952 was 60 per cent. at the New Ferry Nursery as compared with 70 per cent. in 1951, and 53.5 per cent. at the Bromborough Nursery as compared with 60 per cent. in 1951. It is of interest that after the introduction of increased fees in October, 1952, the attendances dropped considerably at the New Ferry Nursery while they increased at the Bromborough Nursery.

Infant Welfare clinics, ante-natal and post-natal mothers' clinics, together with the other specialist clinics for young children, continued vigorously throughout the year.

Statistics for 1952 under this Section are submitted as follows :

A. DAY NURSERIES:

Attendances for 1952, each Nursery having 45 places for children 0—5 years.

NEW FERRY.				BROMBOROUGH.			
	0—2	2—5	Total		0—2	2—5	Total
Jan.	171	586	757	Jan.	76	389	465
Feb.	158	489	647	Feb.	51	415	466
Mar.	218	635	853	Mar.	69	433	502
Apr.	179	642	821	Apr.	47	299	346
May	181	811	992	May	106	556	662
June	245	639	884	June	104	608	712
July	262	770	1,032	July	62	740	802
Aug.	197	600	797	Aug.	51	571	622
Sept.	253	628	881	Sept.	79	694	773
*Oct.	195	426	621	*Oct.	54	598	652
Nov.	161	286	447	Nov.	76	583	659
Dec.	193	335	528	Dec.	86	521	607
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,413	6,847	9,260		861	6,407	7,268
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Average daily attendances :—

New Ferry				Brom. Centre			
Jan./Sept. ...	2.8	20.5	23.3	Jan./Sept. ...	8.1	25.2	33.3
Oct./Dec. ...	2.8	22.4	25.2	Oct./Dec. ...	7.2	13.8	21.0

*Increased fees came into operation 1st October, 1952.

B. MOTHERS' CLINICS:

	Sessions.	New Cases.	Total Attendances.
Ante-natal	150	240	1461
Post-natal	combined	51	51

C. YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS:

(1) Infant Welfare.

To 1 year	277	483	7950
1—5 years	combined	52	2107
(3,074 children seen by Doctor).			

Toddlers' Clinics	13	80	151
--------------------------	----	----	-----

(2) Special Clinics:

Orthopaedic: Surgeon...	22	206	1261
-------------------------	----	-----	------

Physiotherapist

85

Ophthalmic:	12	40	133
--------------------	----	----	-----

(Referred for spectacles ...21)

(Referred for treatment ... 7)

(For further observation ...74)

Ear, Nose and Throat:	7	24	47
-----------------------	---	----	----

(Referred to hospital15)

(Referred to own doctor ... 2)

(Discharged7)

Sun Ray: (0— 5 Group)	78	88	879
-----------------------	----	----	-----

(5—14 Group) combined	...	137	1309
-----------------------	-----	-----	------

Speech Therapy:

New Ferry	96	20	601
------------------	----	----	-----

Plymyard, Eastham ...	40	20	291
-----------------------	----	----	-----

D. FOODS PURCHASED: £1,408.

Foods sold: £1,628.

Section 23—Midwifery Service.

The number of midwives serving the Division during 1952 was three, and including births notified from hospitals and nursing homes, a total of 663 births were notified during 1952—males 345, females 318. The births took place as follows:—

Clatterbridge Hospital	273
Heathfield Maternity Home	178
Private Nursing Homes	8
At home (attended by District Midwives)	120
Outside the Borough	84

663

The number of births notified in 1951 was 679, 121 of which were domiciliary. Of the 120 mothers whose confinements took place in their homes in 1952, 26 were attended by Home Helps provided by the Department under Section 29.

Section 24—Health Visiting.

This work is carried out by a Senior Health Visitor, six assistant Health Visitors and one school nurse. During the year 1952, 19,499 home visits were made by the Health Visitors, including after-care visits. This figure shows a still further increase of 1,684 over the visits for 1951, which represents a total increase of over 4,000 visits a year since the use of personally-owned cars was sanctioned for the Health Visitors.

Section 25—Home Nursing.

The four district nurses continued at the request of general practitioners to serve people in the Division needing home nursing, and the relevant statistics for the year are shown in conjunction with the 1951 figures, which are given in brackets :—

New Cases in 1952.		Visits Paid in 1952.	
749 (837)		24,494 (29,727)	
Referred to hospital...	...	69 (98)	
Deaths	... ..	113 (177)	

Section 26—Vaccination and Immunisation Service.

During the Autumn of 1952 the customary four-months' suspension of this service took place, owing to the period being one in which poliomyelitis is most likely to occur.

Statistics are as follows :—

Vaccination.					
Under 1 year		5—14 years		Total	
385	...	247	...	632	
Diphtheria Immunisation.					
Under 5 years		5—14 years		Total	Reinforcing doses
501	...	275	...	776	79
Whooping Cough Immunisation.					
Under 5 years		5—14 years		Total	
393	...	1	...	394	

The Committee will be interested in the following statistics for the Division for these three diseases, viz. :—

Number of cases of :—

	Smallpox	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough
1951	... Nil	Nil	200 cases (10 immunised)
1952	.. Nil	Nil	129 cases (6 immunised)

A more vigorous campaign supporting whooping cough immunisation is being conducted to stimulate whooping cough immunisation, which had fallen off during the year, although the total for 1952 shows an increase over 1951.

Section 27—Ambulance Service.

The Bebington Ambulance Service comprised the use of five ambulances and one sitting-case car, with a personnel of twenty-one, namely, Supervisor, ten drivers, nine attendants, one temporary attendant for holiday relief work, plus the additional personnel provided under contract by Messrs. Lever Bros., in respect of the ambulance stationed at Port Sunlight.

The following is the record of work carried out in 1952 :—

		(1) No. of vehicles	(2) No. of journeys	(3) Patients carried (calls)	(4) Emergency calls included in Col. 3	(5) Total mileage
Directly	Ambs.	5	8,704	14,112	908	70,777
Provided						
Service	Car	1	1,348	2,520	2	20,914
		—	—	—	—	—
Totals (1952) ...		6	10,052	16,632	910	91,691
		—	—	—	—	—
Totals (1951) ...		6	8,630	14,971	928	86,351
		—	—	—	—	—

In the above figure (910) shown in Column 4, there were included 133 road accidents and 60 works accidents.

In addition to the transport of members of the public from home to hospital and home again, as shown above, the Bebington Ambulance Service during 1952 carried out at Clatterbridge Hospital internal transfer work from ward to ward amounting to approximately 26 weeks of the working hours of one driver and one attendant. The value of this work may be reckoned at £270, and the service is provided free to the Hospital in lieu of rent.

As regards long distance journeys, during the year 31 patients were transferred by ambulance to places outside the County, i.e., Newcastle-on-Tyne, Market Drayton, Bangor, Manchester, etc. Arrangements were made for four other patients to travel by ambulance, train, and ambulance to Goole, Cardiff, Maesteg (Glam.), and Harrogate. In this latter group railway carriages were reserved for the patients and their attendants.

Section 28—Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.

C The organisation set up for the purpose of handling this section of the work has dealt fairly with T.B. After Care in addition to the Care of the Sick and Aged. As regards mental cases, the adults are under the direct charge of the Authorised Officer for Mental After-Care, but for certain ineducable children new treatment has been adopted during the year under Section 51 of the Act, with which I deal later in this report.

1952—Tuberculosis After-Care. Out of a total of 418 on the Bebington T.B. Register 351 cases (180 males, 171 females) were visited quarterly by Health Visitors and reports submitted. The total of 418 cases on the Register will be noted by the Committee in comparison with the number of 351 cases already visited, from which it will be seen that some of the old-notified cases remain to be overtaken. Special attention was paid to the need of cases requiring rehousing. At the time of the issue of this report a total of 18 chalets for separate sleeping accommodation have been provided. Beds, bedding and medical equipment and comforts were provided where necessary. The following are relevant statistics for Bebington for 1952 :—

Notifications :

	Males		Females		Total
Pulmonary	36	...	19	...	55
Non-Pulmonary	6	...	6	...	12
	—		—		—
	42	...	25	...	67
	—		—		—

Removals from Register :—

Deaths : Pulmonary	14
Non-pulmonary	2
	— 16
Pronounced cured	8
Left district	32
	—
	56
	—

Number of contacts referred for examination 237

Number of contacts examined 114

T.B. cases under treatment per 1,000 population :—

1952 ... 8.8 (1951 ... 8.6)

New T.B. cases per 1,000 population :—

1952 ... 1.4 (1951 ... 1.3)

T.B. deaths per 1,000 population :—

1952 ... 0.33 (1951 ... 0.31)

Sick and Aged After-Care. The welfare of this group of residents has been assiduously cared for. Over a hundred cases were referred to me from various sources; 203 visits were made by Health Visitors; 57 items of Home Nursing equipment were loaned during the year, and Home helps were provided in 89 cases.

During the year my Department was instrumental in obtaining the admission of two children and four aged people into County or other Homes, and two children and six adults were assisted into Convalescent Homes through the special fund allocated by the County to the Bebington Division.

Section 29—Domestic Help Service.

This service for homes needing domestic assistance continues to provide much appreciated help in maternity cases, illness, and other domestic emergencies. Applications are investigated by Health Visitors to assess need, and assessments for payment are made on the scale laid down by the Cheshire County Council. The following are the general statistics for the year 1952, the comparative figures for 1951 being given in brackets:—

Permanent full-time Home Helps employed ...	2	(1951—2)
Temporary Home Helps employed as required	18	(1951—13)
Total number of hours worked ...	17,393 $\frac{1}{4}$	(1951—11,824 $\frac{3}{4}$)
To Maternity cases	26	(1951—26)
To T.B. cases	7	(1951—2)
To Aged persons	33	(1951—25)
To Others (sick)	56	(1951—49)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	122	102
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cases paying full cost	42	(1951—40)
Cases paying reduced cost ...	80	(1951—61)
Cases free of cost	—	(1951—1)

It is noted that while there was an increase over 1951 of 20 per cent. in the number of cases provided with Home Helps, the hours worked were nearly 50 per cent. more than for the year 1951. It may be pointed out that at the end of 1952 there were eight long-term cases, some as far back as June, 1951, being provided with Home Helps, and that these cases are scrutinised monthly by the appropriate Sub-Committee. It will be readily agreed that but for this beneficent service many more calls would be made on the hospital services where adequate care could not be provided at home.

Section 51—Mental After-Care.

In May, 1952, as a result of the notification to the local Health Authority of certain ineducable children, an Occupation Centre was opened in New Ferry for the admission daily of 8 children from Bebington and 1 from Ellesmere Port. Since that time, and with an experimental arrangement of transport being afforded to children coming from outlying districts, the number has been increased at the time of this report (March, 1953) to 32, as follows:—

11	Bebington.
14	Ellesmere Port.
3	Heswall.
2	Neston.
2	West Kirby.

32

For 22 of these children transport is provided.

The staff consists of a Supervisor and two assistants, the second assistant taking up duty at the end of March having been promoted from one of our own Nursery staffs. It may be considered fortunate for Bebington that the Centre has been opened in this Division, and generally it is an advance in the right direction of care and supervision and further education where possible of mental deficient, one of the greatest benefits being to the parents in that they are for many hours during the day freed from the continuous task of supervision which such children require. This Centre is, of course, particularly beneficial where there are also normal children in the family, thereby relieving them of the continuous contact with their less fortunate brothers and sisters.

The type of tuition and work carried out at the Centre is directed towards making the children as useful in looking after themselves as possible, and it also aims at finding handicrafts for which such children may often possess facilities not apparent until encouraged along the proper line of approach.

It has been my experience while with three other Authorities in which I have been concerned as a medical examiner and referee over a period of many years, that this type of child may even be brought so far along the lines of education as to become employable, and in one or two isolated cases I have known of personally their mental intelligence quotient has been so far raised as to allow them to be discharged from care under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

ESTIMATES OF COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 1953-54.

	£	
Vaccination and Immunisation	550	
Domestic Help Service	2,206	
Ambulance Service	4,237	
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care	265	
Borough Welfare Centres	2,220	
New Ferry Day Nursery and Bromborough Day Nursery	2,310	
Midwifery	60	
Health Visitors	25	
Home Nursing	485	
Administration	3,489	
Payment for Infectious Diseases Notifications	170	
	<hr/>	16,017

ESTIMATED INCOME FOR 1953-54.

	£	
Domestic Help Service repayments	900	
Petrol payments for petrol supplied to Clatterbridge Hospital	600	
Sale of Welfare Foods	1,700	
Nursery Fees	2,000	
	<hr/>	5,200
Net Estimated Expenditure, 1953-54...	<hr/>	£10,817

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES IN 1952.

Medical Inspection of Pupils attending maintained Primary, Secondary, and Grammar Schools in the Bebington District.

Periodic Inspections.

Entrants	Second age group	Third age group	Total examined
903	508	267	1,678

General Condition.

Age group	Inspected	(A)		(B)		(C)	
		Good		Fair		Poor	
Entrants	903	...	251	...	526	...	126
Second age group ...	508	...	163	...	258	...	87
Third age group ...	267	...	69	...	174	...	24
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Totals ...	1,678	...	483	...	958	...	237
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Special Inspections and Re-examinations.

Examined	Required treatment		Referred for observation		Re-examined	
631	...	75	...	116	...	687
Number examined for visual acuity						886

Children found to require treatment at Periodic Examinations (excluding dental diseases, infestation and cleanliness).

Age group	For defective vision (excluding squint)		For other conditions (See "Defects Found" Section)		Total No. with defects
Entrants	5	...	165	...	169
Second age group	32	...	88	...	115
Third age group	37	...	57	...	89
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Totals	74	...	310	...	373
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Number of parents present at all inspections 1,847

School Clinics.

Clinic	Sessions	New Cases	Total attendances	Doctors sessions	Cases seen by Doctor
Bromborough	. 10	... 83	... 109	... 7	... 70
New Ferry	... 177	... 355	... 1801	... 39	... 637
<hr/>					
Totals	... 187	... 418	... 1910	... 46	... 707
<hr/>					

Children not seen by the Doctor are inspected by the Clinic Nurse.

Specialist Clinics.

Clinic		New Cases		Attendances		Glasses recommended
Ophthalmic :						
New Ferry	...	143	...	888	...	361
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Speech Therapy :						
						Discharged
Plymyard	...	12	...	205	...	10
New Ferry	...	18	...	412	...	14
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		30	...	617	...	24
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Dental Service.

No. Inspected	No. Selected	No. Treated	No. of Teeth Extracted	No. of Teeth Filled				
8,969	...	94,904	...	3,478	...	4,231	...	5,611

Handicapped Pupils.

	New Cases	Re-examinations
Blind ...	—	—
Partially sighted ...	1	1
Deaf ...	—	2
Partially deaf ...	—	—
Delicate ...	3	12
Diabetic ...	1	—
E.S.N. ...	7	19
Epileptic ...	4	2
Maladjusted ...	1	—
Physically handicapped ...	2	3
Speech defect ...	—	—
<hr/>		
	19	30
<hr/>		

Defects Found at Periodic and Special Inspections.

	Periodic Inspections		Special Inspections	
	Number referred for treatment	Number to be kept under observation	Number referred for treatment	Number to be kept under observation
1. Cleanliness ...	—	2	2	4
2. Infestation				
(a) head ...	4	—	1	—
(b) body ...	—	—	—	—
3. Teeth ...	23	11	2	3
4. Skin ...	38	8	8	2
5. Eyes (a) vision .	57	21	20	21
(b) squint .	34	13	5	3
(c) other .	10	1	2	5
6. Ears				
(a) hearing .	6	9	3	5
(b) otitis media	7	4	1	2
(c) other ...	2	1	1	—
7. Nose and throat..	100	91	24	30
8. Speech ...	7	10	6	2
(9) Cervical glands .	4	45	—	10
10. Heart & Circulation	8	17	3	9
11. Lungs ...	19	46	2	14
12. Development :				
(a) hernia ...	1	5	—	—
(b) other ...	5	7	—	4
13. Orthopaedic :				
(a) posture ...	30	9	10	1
(b) flat foot ...	40	57	10	7
(c) other ...	30	17	12	10
14. Nervous System :				
(a) epilepsy ...	2	3	—	1
(b) other ...	—	1	—	—
15. Psychological :				
(a) development	1	19	1	2
(b) stability ...	1	6	—	2
16. Other ...	40	24	10	23
Totals ...	469	437	123	160

END OF REPORT.

E. A. MURRAY & SONS, LTD.

Printers and Stationers,

437 New Chester Road,

Rock Ferry.

Tel.: Rock Ferry 21.